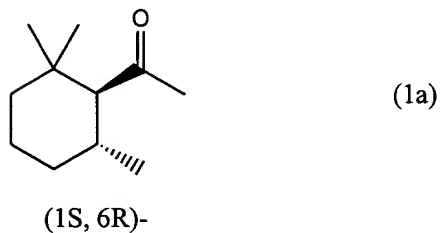


trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone in the composition is from 75% e.e. to 98% e.e.

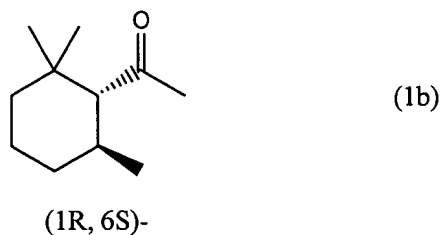
Claims 6-8 (canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The perfume composition according to claim 8,~~
A perfume composition comprising:

at least one of a (1S,6R)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone represented by the formula (1a):



and at least one of a (1R,6S)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone
represented by the formula (1b):

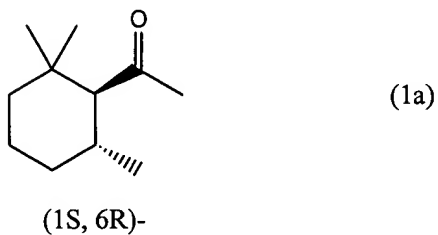


and an acceptable carrier

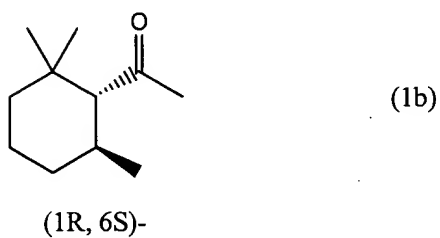
wherein the optical purity of the 2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone in the composition is at least 75% e.e.

10. (Currently Amended) The perfume composition according to claim 9, wherein the optical purity of 2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone in the composition is from 75% e.e. to 98% e.e.

11. (Original) A process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone, comprising at least one of a compound represented by the formula (1a):

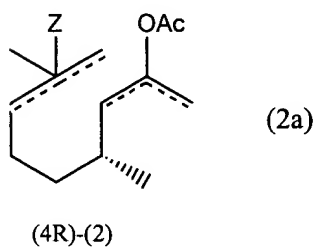


and a compound represented by the formula (1b):

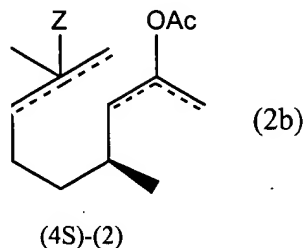


the process comprising:

cyclizing a novel optically active enol acetate represented by at least one of formula (2a):



and formula (2b):



wherein Ac represents an acetyl group; double lines composed of solid lines and broken lines represent a double bond or single bond; when said double lines represent a single bond, Z represents a hydroxyl group or a methoxy group; and, when said double lines represent a double bond, Z is absent, in the presence of an acid catalyst.

12. (Original) The process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone according to claim 11, where said acid catalyst is a protonic acid.

13. (Currently Amended) The process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone according to claim 12, wherein said protonic acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, polyphosphoric acid, para-toluenesulfonic acid, naphthalene sulfonic acid, Amberlyst-15 a sulfonated styrene-divinylbenzene polymer, sulfuric acid-carrying activated clay and Nafion-H a perfluorosulfonic acid polymer.

14. (Original) The process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone according to claim 11, wherein said acid catalyst is present from about 0.1 to 5 equivalents relative to 1 equivalent of the enol acetate.